

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

42390P9770

OCT 05 2007 PATENT

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:  
running guest software in a processor mode that enables the guest software to  
operate at a privilege level intended by the guest software;  
identifying an attempt of the guest software to perform an operation restricted by  
said processor mode;  
determining that whether the attempt of the guest software would fail if the guest  
software was running outside said processor mode; and  
allowing the guest software to attempt the operation in response to determining  
that the attempt would fail; and  
transferring control over the operation to an operating system running within said  
processor mode in response to the guest software attempting the operation.

10-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein determining that the  
attempt of the guest software would fail includes determining that the guest software  
is running with insufficient privilege to perform the operation.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising exiting said  
processor mode to transfer control over the operation to a virtual machine monitor  
running outside said processor mode in response to determining that the attempt  
would succeed.

33. (Previously Presented) A processor comprising:  
a storage location to store an indicator to indicate whether the processor is  
configured to execute guest software in a mode that enables the guest software  
to operate at a privilege level intended by the guest software; and

42390P9770

PATENT

logic to execute the guest software in said processor mode, to identify an attempt of the guest software to perform an operation restricted by said processor mode, to determine whether the attempt would fail if the guest software was running outside said processor mode, to allow the guest software to attempt the operation in response to determining that the attempt would fail, and to transfer control over the operation to an operating system running within said processor mode in response to the attempt.

34. (Previously Presented) The processor of claim 33 wherein the logic is to determine whether the attempt would fail by determining whether the guest software is running with sufficient privilege to perform the operation.
35. (Previously Presented) The processor of claim 33 wherein the logic is also to exit said processor mode to transfer control over the operation to a virtual machine monitor running outside said processor mode in response to determining that the attempt would succeed.
36. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:  
a memory to store application software and an operating system; and  
a processor to execute the application software in a processor mode that enables the application software to operate at a privilege level intended by the application software, to identify an attempt of the application software to perform an operation restricted by said processor mode, to determine whether the attempt would fail if the application software was running outside said processor mode, to allow the application software to attempt the operation in response to determining that the attempt would fail, and to transfer control over the operation to the operating system running within said processor mode in response to the attempt.
37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36 wherein the processor is to determine whether the attempt would fail by determining whether the application

PATENT

42390P9770

software is running with sufficient privilege to perform the operation.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36 wherein:  
the memory is also to store a virtual machine monitor; and  
the processor is also to exit said processor mode to transfer control over the  
operation to the virtual machine monitor running outside said processor mode  
in response to determining that the attempt would succeed.
39. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable computer readable storage medium that provides instructions, which when executed on a processor, cause the processor to:  
present a virtual machine to guest software in a processor mode that enables the  
guest software to operate at a privilege level intended by the guest software;  
and  
handle a virtualization trap, where the virtualization trap is generated in response  
to an attempt of the guest software to perform an operation restricted by said  
processor mode and a determination that the attempt would succeed if the  
guest software was running outside the virtual machine.
40. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable computer readable storage medium of claim 39 wherein the determination that the attempt would succeed includes  
determining whether the application software is running with sufficient privilege to  
perform the operation.